

REMARKS

Pursuant to an Office Action mailed December 15, 2003, the Office has required restriction of claims 1-44 (Group I) and claims 45-52 (Group II). In response, the applicant hereby elects the claims of Group I (i.e., claims 1-44) for prosecution. Furthermore, claims 45-52 have been canceled without prejudice, as detailed above. Accordingly, claims 1-44 remain pending.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully requests prompt issuance of the subject application.

Respectfully Submitted,

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By:

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